GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
INDIA`S CANDIDATURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters adopted by the UN for the Membership of Security Council;

(b) whether India fulfils these parameters;

(c) if so, the results of the efforts made by the Government of India to secure membership of the Security Council; and

(d) the latest assessment made by the Government about the possibility in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 249 TO E ANSWERED ON 8.8.2001 REGARDING `INDIA`S CANDIDATURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL`.

An Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), set up in 1993, in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has been considering all aspects o the question of an increase in the membership of the UN Security Council since January 1994.So far, discussions in the OEWG and the annual debate in the UNGA have not led to anyagreement on the parameters for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

India declared its candidature for permanent membership of the UNSCin 1994 in the UNGA. We believethat India is qualified by any objective criteria to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The question of support for India`s candidature for permanent membership to the UN Security Council has been taken up at various levels. There is growing momentum in support of Indian candidature. Of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia and France have consistently supported India`s candidature. France has stated that India is naturally destined to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and that France supports and will support Indian candidature.Russia has stated that the Russian Federation considers India a strong and worthy candidate for a permanent membership seat in the Security Council should it be decided to enlarge the Council in both categories. A US official has stated that `there is no question that India is a very strong contender for permanent membership of the Security Council. Its size, role in the world, its economy, its contribution to UN peace keeping, all these make it a very serious and strong contender`. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the UK, during a visit to India, said that he sees `India as a natural contender for permanent membership of the UN Security Council`.Ten countries have publicly expressed support for our candidature at the UN. Many others have indicated support bilaterally.